

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/023,426

Examiner

Nelson D. Hernandez

Applicant(s)

SOUMI ET AL.

Art Unit

2612

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 16 May 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-7 and 9-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 20 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. Examiner acknowledges the amendments made on the claims. Claims 1, 5 and 6 have been amended, claims 11-20 have been newly added and claims 4 and 8 have been cancelled.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. **Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-20** are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

**Regarding claims 1 and 15**, the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest that the shield comprises an upper end portion and, when the digital camera is completely set in the retainer, the upper end portion of the shield substantially aligns with an upper end portion of the uppermost-positioned connecting terminal of the connecting terminals that are shielded by the shield.

Sobol, US 2002/0071035 A1 discloses a cradle (Fig. 1: 150) for a digital camera (Fig. 2) provided with connecting terminals (Figs. 2: 14 and 2: 24) of a first plurality of kinds, the cradle comprising: a retainer (Fig. 1: 152) for retaining therein a digital camera; a shield (Fig. 1: 154) formed at the retainer; and terminals (Figs. 1: 162 and 1: 170) including, wherein, when the digital camera is set in the cradle, the shield shields, of the connecting terminals of the first plurality of kinds, connecting terminals that are of the same kinds as the connecting terminals of the second plurality of kinds (Page 2, ¶ 0024 and ¶ 0025; page 3, ¶ 0031).

However, Sobol fails to teach or reasonably suggest that the shield comprises an upper end portion and, when the digital camera is completely set in the retainer, the upper end portion of the shield substantially aligns with an upper end portion of the uppermost-positioned connecting terminal of the connecting terminals that are shielded by the shield.

**Regarding claim 11 and 18**, the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest that the digital camera includes a digital camera side composite terminal having integrally formed therein connecting terminals of kinds corresponding to kinds of the connecting terminals that are shielded by the shield, and the digital camera side composite terminal electrically connects to the composite terminal formed at the cradle when the digital camera is set in the retainer.

Sobol, US 2002/0071035 A1 discloses a cradle (Fig. 1: 150) for a digital camera (Fig. 2) provided with connecting terminals (Figs. 2: 14 and 2: 24) of a first plurality of kinds, the cradle comprising: a retainer (Fig. 1: 152) for retaining therein a digital camera; a shield (Fig. 1: 154) formed at the retainer; and terminals (Figs. 1: 162 and 1: 170) including, wherein, when the digital camera is set in the cradle, the shield shields, of the connecting terminals of the first plurality of kinds, connecting terminals that are of the same kinds as the connecting terminals of the second plurality of kinds (Page 2, ¶ 0024 and ¶ 0025; page 3, ¶ 0031).

However, Sobol fails to teach or reasonably suggest that the digital camera includes a digital camera side composite terminal having integrally formed therein connecting terminals of kinds corresponding to kinds of the connecting terminals that

Art Unit: 2612

are shielded by the shield, and the digital camera side composite terminal electrically connects to the composite terminal formed at the cradle when the digital camera is set in the retainer.

### **Contact**

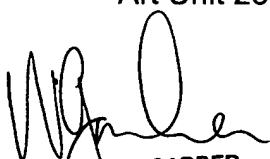
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernandez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7311. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R. Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nelson D. Hernandez  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2612

NDHH  
May 30, 2005

  
WENDY R. GARBER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600